

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

November 28, 2005

Unique Gifts to Benefit the Environment This Season

The generosity of many of us was stretched in 2005 as we gave to help others recover from the tsunami that killed hundreds of thousands of people a world away and Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma in our own country.

If you're looking for ways to give that benefit the environment this year, consider these suggestions—

Gift of Time- Help your local watershed group to plant a stream buffer, monitor water quality or help promote the organization. Check the [Watershed Directory](#) or call your [county conservation district](#) to find a group near you.

Gift of Expertise- lend your chemistry, organizational, computer or writing expertise to the [Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps](#) to help improve water quality in your area.

Gift of Light- If every U.S. household replaces just one incandescent light bulb at home with one that earned the [Energy Star label](#), we will save \$600 million in energy bills, save enough energy to light 7 million homes, and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 1 million cars.

Gift of Efficiency- Tell 10 of your business associates about how improving energy efficiency and reducing waste, water use and pollution can help their bottom line and put them in touch with the [EMAP Program of the Small Business Development Centers](#) to learn how.

Gift of Education- Volunteer to help your child's teacher find environment-related activities and curriculum to teach the next generation how to be good environmental stewards. Visit the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) for resource ideas.

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Professional Services Directory
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North & West Branches of the
Susquehanna River join at Sunbury.

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Gift to the Future- Dedicate a financial gift to permanently preserve farmland, open space or habitat through a land conservancy or other preservation organization. Visit the [Pennsylvania Land Trust Association](#) to find a group near you.

Want to share your gift ideas? Send them to DHess@HolstonCrisci.com .

Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to session December 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14.

On the Hill

- Bills Moving in Senate/House
- Environmental Synopsis Features Keep PA Beautiful, NOx Trading
- Bills Introduced

Other News

- Ches-Mont Disposal, RecycleBank Team Up to Offer Recycling Services
- Abitibi-Consolidated Expands Service to Encourage Paper Recycling
- Helping a McMurray Dry Cleaner Lower Utility Bills and Reduce Waste
- DEP to Hold Listening Session on Proposed Nutrient Trading Program
- Applications Due February 3 for Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants
- Flood Control & Watershed Restoration Grant Applications Due March 3
- “Looking To The River” Premiers on Public TV December 2
- PA Plants 4 Times More Stream Buffers Than Maryland, Virginia Combined
- PA Restores 3 Times More Brownfields Than Virginia, Maryland Combined
- Pennsylvania Prepares for Avian Flu Outbreak
- Winners of the "Why I Love My Pennsylvania State Park" Children's Essay Contest
- Pennsylvania Game Commission Offers 'Wild' Gift Giving Ideas
- Gilius Named Director of DEP's Bureau of Oil and Gas Management

Feature – Rewarding Leadership

- The 4 Es Was Theme of PRC's 2005 Awards Dinner
- Chester County Recognizes Green Businesses

[Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

On the Hill

Bills Moving in Senate/House

In spite of the Senate and House focus on the property tax issue this week, a number of environmental bills did move. Here's a quick rundown.

Senate

Heating Assistance: [House Bill 1539](#) (Nickol-R-York) was amended to just provide additional funding for Low-Income Heating Assistance (it was an early vehicle for the pay raise repeal) and was passed by the Senate. It now moves to the House for a concurrence vote.

Snowmobile Registration: [Senate Bill 995](#) (MJ White-R-Venango) amending the ATV/Snowmobile registration requirements was passed by the Senate.

Sewage Task Force: [House Resolution 88](#) (Hutchinson-R-Venango,) establishing a sewage management and treatment task force and directing the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee to support the group, was adopted by the Senate. The resolution is now in effect because the House adopted identical language.

House

Heating Assistance: [House Bill 2216](#) (Allen-R-Schuylkill) providing additional funding for Low-Income Heating Assistance was reported out of House Appropriations.

Environmental Synopsis Features Keep PA Beautiful, NOx Trading

The November issue of the [Environmental Synopsis](#) published by the [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) is now available online.

This issue provides an overview of the [Keep PA Beautiful](#) Summit, rising gas prices, the environmental costs of commuting and trading nitrogen oxide credits.

The Committee's next Environmental Issues Forum will be on December 6 and features a presentation on the Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Development Center

Bills Introduced

These environmental bills were introduced this week

State Energy Office: [House Bill 2253](#) (George-D-Clearfield) would create a State Energy Office within the Department of Environmental Protection.

State Clean Car Program: [Senate Bill 1025](#) (MJ White-R-Venango) would establish a Pennsylvania Clean Car Program by adopting federal Tier II standards.

Visit the [Professional Services Directory](#) and [Events Calendar](#)

In Other News

Ches-Mont Disposal, RecycleBank Team Up to Offer Recycling Services

Chester County waste collection and recycling company [Ches-Mont Disposal](#) has teamed up with [RecycleBank](#) to offer customers in two townships an incentive-based recycling service that makes recycling easy and convenient for customers.

About 1,500 customers in Montgomery Township, Montgomery County and Warrington Township, Bucks County received new 64-gallon recycling containers the week of October 24 to recycle their bi-metal, tin, aluminum, plastic and glass containers as well as newspapers, cardboard, magazines, junk mail, office paper and cereal boxes.

As containers are picked up by Ches-Mont, they are automatically weighed and the weight recorded for each customer using a chip that is part of the container. For each pound of recyclables, the customer earns a RecycleBank dollar—up to \$25 per month--that can be redeemed for coupons at more than 100 local stores and other service partners.

“The RecycleBank single stream recycling—putting everything in one container—makes it easy and more convenient for our customers, with the added incentive of giving customers coupons they are able to redeem at a local store,” said Patrick Kelly, Vice President of Ches-Mont. “Prior to the RecycleBank Program, customers used an 18-gallon container versus the 64-gallon container and they had to keep certain items separate as opposed to the single stream method and there was no other incentive.”

“Using RecycleBank is a way for us to differentiate ourselves from our competition. We would hope that this will result in more customers choosing to do business with Ches-Mont Disposal and RecycleBank,” said Kelly. “We offered this pilot service to our existing customers in Montgomery and Warrington Townships first because of the proximity to the [Blue Mountain Recycling](#) facility that separates our recyclables for us.”

Earlier this year, the RecycleBank Program helped pilot areas in the [City of Philadelphia more than triple](#) the amount of materials recycled as well as participation.

“The new program does help us avoid the costs of taking material to the landfill that are recycled because of the increased capacity of the containers and the additional items that are being recycled – plus we have provided residents with new incentives,” said Kelly.

Ches-Mont offered the new program to customers at no increase in cost.

For more information, visit the websites for [Ches-Mont Disposal](#), [RecycleBank](#) and [Blue Mountain Recycling](#)

Abitibi-Consolidated Expands Service to Encourage Paper Recycling

Abitibi-Consolidated Inc. announced it is expanding its [Paper Retriever Program](#) into seven additional U.S. metropolitan markets, including Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

The program will now operate in 23 metropolitan areas in the U.S. and Canada and provide more than 14,000 drop-off bins.

The Paper Retriever Program makes drop-off paper recycling more convenient by offering its service to no cost to organizations hosting its distinctive green-and-yellow bins.

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The program also offers monetary incentives to communities to recycle. For high volume participants, the Paper Retriever contributes money to non-profit organizations based on the amount of paper collected in each bin.

In 2004, Paper Retriever organizations received \$2.8 million to restore playgrounds, enhance libraries, award scholarships, provide team uniforms, support field and mission trips and many other projects. The community spirit and initiative to raise money for local non-profits also raises awareness of recycling.

Seven of the 21 school districts in Montgomery County are participating in Paper Retriever. Prior to signing on some of those school districts were not recycling paper at all.

“When it comes to teaching about recycling, there is no substitute for learning by doing,” said Dave Mazza, director of the Pennsylvania Resources Council’s Western Pennsylvania office.

The Paper Retriever program is also attractive to businesses, which can host a bin and have their recyclable papers collected at no cost. “That is especially important for small- to mid-sized businesses where recycling has not always been economically feasible,” Mazza said. “It is an opportunity for those small businesses to recycle and not have to incur disposals costs.”

Following the expansion, Abitibi’s Paper Retriever bins will be available in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Westmoreland and Washington counties in the Pittsburgh region. In the Philadelphia area, bins will be available in Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties.

To find Paper Retriever recycling containers, go to the [Abitibi webpage](#).

Helping a McMurray Dry Cleaner Lower Utility Bills and Reduce Waste

Martinizing Dry Cleaning of McMurray, Washington County, has reduced its energy use by over 7,500 kilowatts and its waste by over 2,715 pounds and saved over \$2,800 by becoming more energy efficient.

The company used a loan from the [Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account Program](#) to improve the efficiency of their operation by installing a new environmentally-friendly dry cleaning machine to replace an inefficient machine.

In the past three years, Martinizing reported saving 129 gallons of perchloroethylene and 7,500 kilowatts of electricity, all the while increasing production. They also reduced their use of perchloroethylene by 2,715 pounds, a step which helped to reduce their waste disposal costs.

These actions resulted in the company saving \$2,856 in the three years since implementing their project.

The Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account Program is available to any small business owner whose pollution prevention/energy conservation project in businesses with 100 or fewer full-time employees.

For more information, visit the [Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account webpage](#) or contact Gene DeVecchio at 717 772-8951 or send e-mail to gdelvecchi@state.pa.us.

To get help finding energy, waste and water use reduction options for your business, visit the [EMAP Program of the Small Business Development Centers](#).

DEP to Hold Listening Session on Proposed Nutrient Trading Program

The Department of Environmental Protection this week announced another of its listening sessions for December 12 in Lancaster to collect public input on the [Interim Final Nutrient and Sediment Trading Policy](#).

The meeting is co-sponsored by the Department's Citizens Advisory Council and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts Inc. and will be facilitated with the help of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. at the [Lancaster Farm and Home Center](#).

Interested individuals from agriculture, wastewater treatment facilities, industrial plants, developers, conservation districts, watershed association and environmental groups are invited to attend the above meetings to provide input concerning the department's guidelines.

For more information, visit the DEP [Nutrient and Sediment Trading Policy webpage](#) or call the Water Planning Office at 717-772-4785

Applications Due February 3 for Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Program, has announced it is accepting applications for the [2006 Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program](#) through February 3.

The Small Watershed Grants Program seeks to—

- Support communities in developing and implementing watershed management plans;
- Encourage innovative, locally-based programs or projects that improve water quality and restore important habitats within the Chesapeake Bay basin;
- Develop the capacity of local governments, citizens groups, and other organizations to promote community based stewardship and enhance local watershed management;
- Encourage environmentally sensitive development, land conservation, and sound land use planning;
- Promote a greater understanding of the Chesapeake Bay and the interrelationship between the health of the Bay and the condition of local watersheds; and
- Strengthen the link between communities and the Chesapeake Bay Program.

NFWF will be offering a series of free grant workshops at locations around the watershed in December. The [workshops in Pennsylvania](#) will be held on--

- December 5 – State College, Days Inn, from 1-3 p.m.; and
- December 6 – Harrisburg, Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center Wildwood, 10-12.

Each workshop is intended to provide an overview of the Small Watershed Grants Program, offer recommendations on what makes for a strong proposal, and answer any questions that potential applicants may have about this year's program. In particular, this year's application form features an expanded project evaluation section, which will be discussed in more detail at the workshops.

For more information on the program, visit the [Small Watershed Grants webpage](#) and the [Workshops webpage](#) to RSVP your attendance.

Flood Control & Watershed Restoration Grant Applications Due March 3

In a [formal notice November 26](#), the Department of Environmental Protection said it would accept Watershed Restoration and Flood Protection Grant applications by March 3.

DEP will accept project applications that address flood protection projects as well as nonpoint source pollution, such as comprehensive watershed plan implementation; legacy sediment and stream restoration; nutrient and sediment trading; long-term operation and maintenance for watershed projects and mine drainage treatment systems; urban and agricultural runoff; and upgrades to on-lot sewage systems.

Eligible projects also could include reducing nonpoint source pollution in watersheds where streams are impaired; designing practices and activities that support water quality trading initiatives; integrating stormwater management and flood protection into watershed management; encouraging the beneficial use of abandoned mine pool water; and integrating air deposition controls and management with mitigating water quality problems.

Applications must be postmarked no later than March 3 and if hand delivered, the package must be received by 4:30 p.m. on March 3. Late submissions will not be considered.

For more information, visit the [Growing Greener webpage](#).

“Looking To The River” Premier on Public TV December 2

“Looking To The River,” a documentary on issues in the Middle, West and North branches of the Susquehanna River will premier on WVIA public television in Pittston on December 2 at 9:00 p.m..

“In the classic storytelling tradition, “[Looking To The River](#)” seeks to convey ideas that entertain and enlighten,” said A. William Kelly, President and CEO of WVIA, a public television station in Pittston. “We hope that after you watch the film, you will better understand and appreciate its affect on all our lives, and the possibilities it holds to define our future. Most importantly, we hope the documentary compels you in some way to participate in the nurturing of the Susquehanna River.”

"This is the first step in a series of programs on WVIA that will advocate the importance of the river to the quality of life in our region and the health of the Chesapeake Bay," said H.W. “Skip” Wieder, of Geisinger Health Systems and chair of the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition. "One objective of the project is to reintroduce the river to residents in the region to connect them to this great resource."

Looking To The River will air on WVIA December 2 at 9:00 p.m., December 6 at 8:00 p.m., December 10 at 6:00 p.m. and December 11 at 3:00 p.m. It is also expected to be shown on local public television stations in Pennsylvania through the Pennsylvania Public Television Network. Check local listings for times in your area.

As part of a regional education initiative, the *Sunbury Daily Item* and *Danville News* newspaper published a special section in their October 15 editions they called Susquehanna – A Special Report on the River. The report provided background information on the river resource as well as the environmental and economic challenges it faces.

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For more information, visit the [Looking ToThe River webpage](#) and download the special [Looking To The River theatrical premiere program](#). The premiere program includes a list of the sponsors that made the documentary possible.

PA Plants 4 Times More Stream Buffers Than Maryland, Virginia Combined

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [this week reported](#) Pennsylvania planted over four times the miles of stream buffers that Maryland and Virginia combined in the Chesapeake Bay drainage area in 2005

815 miles of new streamside forest buffers were added in the Chesapeake watershed in 2005 with Maryland adding 30 miles, Virginia adding 129 miles and Pennsylvania adding 656 miles.

EPA said Pennsylvania's accomplishment has been attributed to more communication between landowners, the contributions of county conservation districts, and increased numbers of watershed education programs.

PA Restores 3 Times More Brownfields Than Virginia, Maryland Combined

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [this week reported](#) Pennsylvania restored three times more brownfields in the Chesapeake Bay drainage area than Maryland and Virginia combined over the last year.

The Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement signed by the governors of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, the mayor of Washington, D.C., and the administrator of the EPA, and the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, contains this commitment: "By 2010, rehabilitate and restore 1,050 brownfield sites to productive use."

The cumulative total rehabilitated and restored sites in each state since June 2000 is: Pennsylvania 377, Maryland 99, and Virginia 56 sites.

During the last annual reporting period (June 28, 2004 and June 28, 2005), Pennsylvania rehabilitated and restored 89 sites, Maryland 20, and Virginia 9. Washington, D.C. has just completed developing their program and reported no sites during this timeframe.

Pennsylvania Prepares for Avian Flu Outbreak

The Departments of Agriculture and Health this week outlined their plans to protect Pennsylvanians from an outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza.

The agencies said they will rely on their existing networks to monitor flu cases in both animals and humans and if it is detected, implement the Department of Health's plan for dealing with an outbreak that involves hospitals, EMS providers and other health care organizations throughout the state.

While people in Southeast Asia have contracted H5N1 avian flu, it has not spread easily from human-to-human.

The Department of Health emphasized that if the H5N1 avian flu were to spread, it would be a global concern and Pennsylvania would be working with public health partners from around the world to deal with the outbreak. At this time, there is no vaccine against this virus.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

In addition to monitoring the potential human transmission of the avian flu, steps have been taken to monitor the state's bird population. Each year the Department of Agriculture takes more than 240,000 samples to detect different strains of avian influenza. Those samples have not detected avian flu for more than three years.

For more information, visit the Department of Health [PA Pandemic Preparedness webpage](#).

Winners of the "Why I Love My Pennsylvania State Park" Children's Essay Contest

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Stillwater Publishing of Lionville, PA, this week announced the winners of their recent "Why I love My Pennsylvania State Park" essay contest.

The contest ran from August to October 31 and was open to children ages 8 to 12 who wrote 50-word-or-less essays about nature in their favorite Pennsylvania State Park. Prizes were awarded in five age categories: 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, as well as a Grand Prize for the state.

Ashley Taylor Smith, age 8, of Levittown, PA won the Grand Prize for her essay about Tyler State Park in Newtown, PA. Ashley is a student at Walter Miller Elementary School in the Neshaminy School District.

The Grand Prize includes a set of the award-winning Take A Walk® Books for the essayist, a set for the Environmental Education Center at Tyler State Park (value \$80.00) , and a pair of binoculars for the winner, compliments of Wildside Birding Tours of Exton, PA.

As part of the Grand Prize, Ashley will help lead a nature walk at her park guided by Jane Kirkland of Eagle, PA, author of Take A Walk® Books and Kevin Loughlin, naturalist, photographer, and President of Wildside Tours.

Ashley's essay, along with the other winners will appear at the [Take A Walk® Books website](#). Ashley's essay reads as follows:

"The leaves and bees. The water and the trees. They're all a part of a day in the park. The birds in the sky and all of its peacefulness, Let's not forget all of the friendly hellos. It's mine and yours but best of all it's free."

The first place winners in each age category will receive a set of Take A Walk® books for themselves and a set for their park. All winners receive a certificate acknowledging their award. Other winners and the parks about which they wrote are:

- Age 8, Jacob Mast of Elizabethtown PA (Worlds End State Park);
- Age 9 (tie): Jackson Fuhrer of Halifax, PA (Colonel Denning State Park) and Kristina Zahan (Ridley Creek State Park);
- Age 10: John-Paul Heil of Camp Hill, PA (Colton Point State Park); and
- Age 11, Troy Bennett of Avis, PA (Bald Eagle State Park).

A special recognition prize was awarded for the age 12 category to Mrs. Kate Nekusa's sixth grade class of St. Marys Catholic Elementary School in St Marys, PA. Mrs. Nekusa turned the contest into a class assignment. The students wrote about many different Pennsylvania State Parks and for their efforts, author Kirkland has awarded the age 12 category prize to the entire class.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

The school will receive a set of Take A Walk® Books for their library and Kirkland will visit the school in April to present her popular assembly program about nature.

For more information visit the [Take A Walk® Books website](#), or the [Pennsylvania State Parks website](#).

Pennsylvania Game Commission Offers 'Wild' Gift Giving Ideas

Is the thought of facing holiday shopping crowds unbearable? Are you looking for that really "wild" holiday gift for the hunter, trapper or other conservation-minded person on your list and you just can't seem to find it? Dozens of wildlife-related gifts are just a click away at "[The Outdoor Shop](#)" on the Pennsylvania Game Commission's website.

Look for a colorful 2006 calendar filled with scenes of Pennsylvania wildlife and habitats, bird identification tools, special holiday ornaments, a variety of wildlife patches and stamps that support restoration activities, videos on deer, bear and elk and a subscription to PA Game News magazine.

Still haven't found the right gift? Choose from an assortment of wildlife books; bird and mammal charts by the late, famed Ned Smith; Smith's popular field journal, *Gone for the Day*; fluorescent orange SPORT hats; cookbooks; cooking aprons; waterfowl stamps; and a wildlife viewing guide.

Also, for those interested in making a last minute tax-deductible contribution, "The Outdoor Shop" on Game Commission's website offers that opportunity.

All revenues generated from these items support the Game Commission's wildlife management programs. The Game Commission does not receive any general state tax dollars.

In addition to being available on the agency's website, all items are available by contacting the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Department MS, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797; or by calling toll free 1-888-888-3459. Many of the items are available for sale over-the-counter at the Harrisburg office and six region offices.

Visit the "[The Outdoor Shop](#)" on the Pennsylvania Game Commission's website anytime.

And yes, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has its own online "[Fish Outdoor Shop](#)" with items geared to the fishing and boating community.

Gilius Named Director of DEP's Bureau of Oil and Gas Management

Ronald P. Gilius was named Director of DEP's Bureau of Oil and Gas Management this week in the Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Gilius has more than 30 years of leadership experience and most recently served as the Chief of the Division of Surface Activities, Bureau of Oil and Gas Management, where he oversaw the development and management of the statewide Compliance Monitoring Program, Clean Streams Law/Clean Water Act Program, and the Residual Waste Disposal Program.

Previously, he worked as a Chief of the Environmental Analysis Section in the Bureau of Mining and Reclamation and prior to that as a Civil Engineer in the Bureau of Design and the Bureau of Water Resources.

Mr. Gilius earned a Bachelors of Civil Engineering degree from the University of Dayton and is a registered Professional Engineer.

Feature – Rewarding Leadership

The 4 Es Was Theme of PRC’s 2005 Awards Dinner

“Environment, Education, Energy and Economics: The 4 Es” was the theme of the [Pennsylvania Resources Council’s](#) annual fundraising and awards dinner. The event, which honored statewide leaders in the 4 Es, was held November 17 in West Conshohocken.

The honorary dinner chair was Howard B. Stoeckel, CEO of Wawa, Inc. and the keynote speaker was Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango), chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. Almost 200 business, government and community leaders attended.

Sen. White recognized the importance of a continuing goal of PRC--that of bringing people, business and government together to solve environmental problems.

“As chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, I know firsthand that forging consensus on environmental policy is not easy. It combines two issues that, individually, stir passions: environment and money,” said Sen. White.

Sen. White reminded the audience of several key issues where consensus was reached over the last year including Growing Greener II, measures to promote alternative energy, and soon the establishment of the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education.

Individual, companies and honored by PRC include—

Giant Eagle – Leader in the Environment: Giant Eagle’s Conservation Department has upheld a commitment and corporate responsibility to the environment by participating in both internal and external recycling efforts, implementing energy-saving technologies in new and existing stores and supporting the education efforts of local and national environmental organizations.

Waste Management – Leader in Education Award: Waste Management promotes hands-on environmental learning opportunities for students and communities through programs like the Pennsylvania Waste Watchers Award, the Earth Force environmental education program and partnerships with organizations like school districts and the Audubon Society and participated in the Governor’s Institute for Environment and Ecology and the Department of Education’s Environmental Education Council.



(l to r) Brian Clark, Board Chairman, Former Rep. Ellen Bard, Rep. Carole Rubley, Sen. Mary Jo White and Larry Myers, PRC Executive Director

Former State Rep. Ellen Bard – Leader in Energy Award: During her five terms in the House of Representatives, Rep. Bard was a leader in promoting energy efficiency, development of clean, alternative energy, chaired the Subcommittee on Energy of the House Environmental Resources, promoted public awareness of environmental and energy issues through the non-profit Earthright organization she founded and through her current activities as host of “Bard Means Business” and serving on the Boards of a variety of environmental, energy and civic organizations.

Judy Wicks – Leader in Economy Award: As the owner and founder of the White Dog Café, Ms. Wicks became a national leader in the local living economies movement and co-chair of both the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia and the national Business Alliance for Local Living Economies and has won numerous awards for her blend of doing business in an environmentally sustainable way.

Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC – Leader in Sustainable Design and Planning: For over 40 years WRT has had a commitment to sustainability as a core value in its corporate culture that has led to over 250 awards for its work and is evident in the design of the firm’s own new headquarters office in Philadelphia which received a Gold rating under the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED Commercial program for sustainable and energy efficient design.

For 67 years, PRC has been working to create solutions to environmental challenges and to reach out to the community through its educational programs that include resource conservation, environmental summer camps, recycling, composting, environmental lifestyle choices, watershed and air quality education, and a variety of litter prevention programs.

For information, visit the [PRC website](#).

Chester County Recognizes Green Businesses

The Chester County Board of Commissioners and the Chester County Chamber recognized the 2005 Green Business Award recipients at their recent annual dinner-- Centocor and sanofi-aventis received awards for their distinguished recycling and waste reduction practices.

Both winners have consistently shown that their practices represent substantial cost savings as well as environmental benefits. Here’s a quick summary of their accomplishments.

In 2004 Centocor recycled over 200 tons of paper, aluminum, glass, metal, fluorescent bulbs, toner cartridges, batteries and computers. Through a creative initiative, they also recycled 35 tons of various sizes of plastic drums and pails that were granulated and turned into sewer pipe. In its first full year, recycling the empty plastic containers alone showed a cost avoidance and savings of \$6,700 in disposal and hauling costs.

Sanofi-aventis recycled over 151 tons of paper products, aluminum, glass, scrap wood, fluorescent bulbs, batteries, computers, cartridges and even coffee grounds representing over 40 percent of their potential municipal waste generated. Their program

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

shows that top down management support, education of employees and training of housekeeping personnel are the key ingredients to a successful program.

The Chamber and the County anticipate honoring green businesses again at next year's Annual Dinner. To learn more about how to apply for a Green Business Award, call 610-344-5940.

Quick Clips

Here's a selection of NewsClips on environmental topics from around the state.

[As Natural Gas Prices Rise, Homeowners See How Low They Can Go](#)
[Biodiesel Firm Eyes Delano](#)
[Sun Shines on Bucks Nature Center](#)
[Recycled Bikes Will Get New Homes](#)
[Annual Superfund Report Shows Continuing Cleanup Progress](#)
[Pile of Leaves Transformed Into Heaps of Cash for Borough](#)
[Vandergrift Hoping It's Green Movement Will Make Steel Town More Livable](#)
[Open Space Plan Goes Forward](#)
[Editorial: Private Bequest Sets Example for Protecting Open Space](#)
[Saving the Environment One Quarterly Earnings Report at a Time](#)
[Hagerstown Arsons Highlight Spread of Radical Environmentalism](#)

Watershed NewsClips

Read a sampling of NewsClips on watershed topics from around Pennsylvania.

[Work to Save Streambed Almost Complete](#)
[Fishing in Pucketa Creek?](#)
[Antler Club Lands Grant for Creek Improvement](#)
[Montour Conservation Groups Offers Funds to Protect Creek](#)
[Avoca's Ice-Reduction Experiment to Protect Mill Creek Area](#)
[The Susquehanna River's Lure](#)
[Developers Woe, No Room to Flush](#)
[Bay Cleanup Impacting Sewage Plants, Customers](#)

Regulations

No new regulations were published by the Department of Environmental Protection this week, however, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced it had reopened the comment periods for the Clean Air Interstate Rule and the PM 2.5 rule.

- [EPA Opens Comment Period on Clean Air Interstate Rule](#)
- [EPA Extends Comment Period on Proposed PM 2.5 Rule](#)

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – November 26, 2005](#)

Comment Deadlines: [Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations \(DEP website\)](#)

[Status of Regulations, 6-Month Calendar \(DEP website\)](#)

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice of changes to the Air Quality General Plan Approval and General Operating Permit and a final guidance document on encouraging compliance with Bureau of Radiation Protection regulations.

Department of Environmental Protection notice of [proposed revisions to Air Quality General Plan Approval and General Operating Permit](#) covering natural gas production and coal bed methane recovery facilities. Comments due: January 10.

[Final. DEP ID: 291-4100-001](#). Bureau of Radiation Protection Compliance and Enforcement Policy. This guidance establishes standard procedures for encouraging compliance with, and enforcing the regulations, which the Bureau of Radiation Protection has the authority to administer.

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)

[For copies of Final Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Upcoming conferences, meetings, workshops, plus links to other online calendars. [Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

- **December 1** – Independent Regulatory Review Commission meeting to consider the Environmental Quality Board's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation regulations.
- **December 3** – [Energy Cost Reduction Workshop for Houses of Worship](#). Harrisburg.
- **December 5** – [DEP Radiation Protection Advisory Committee meeting](#) to consider proposed regulation changes to implement Agreement State Status with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- **December 6** – House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee information meeting on Energy Policy to hear presentations from energy producers.
- **December 7** – Delaware River Basin Commission [informal conference/hearing](#) on water supply plan, Delaware Toxics Reduction Program, mussel habitat study, PCB Minimization Plan.
- **December 12** – DEP Listening Session on [Interim Final Nutrient Trading Policy. Lancaster Farm and Home Center](#). 6:00 p.m..

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

- **December 12** – Environmental Issues Forum – PA Recycling Markets Development Center, [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#).
- **December 16** – [PA Energy Development Authority meeting in Harrisburg](#).

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

(courtesy [PA Organizations for Watersheds & Rivers](#))

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

(courtesy [PA Center for Environmental Education](#))

[Senate Committee Schedule](#) [House Committee Schedule](#)

Helpful Web Links

[Daily NewsClips](#) [Daily DEP Update](#) [GreenTreks Network](#) [Watershed Weekly](#)

[DEP Press Releases](#) [DEP Advisory Committee Meetings & Agendas](#)

[DCNR Resource Magazine](#) [DCNR Press Releases](#)

[Fish & Boat Commission Press Releases](#) [Game Commission Press Releases](#)

Stories Invited

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